FDI for Tourism in Himalayan Region

676. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any rules and regulations to control and regulate Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the field of tourism in fragile Himalayan region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the measures Government has taken to protect the vulnerable Himalayan region particularly in Himachal Pradesh from increasing infrastructure in sports tourism by putting FDI?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The Government has permitted 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under the automatic route in the hotel and tourism sector all over the country. Each State/Union Territory has their own rules and regulations for clearance/approval of infrastructure projects.

Sikkim as International Tourist Destination

677. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is committed to make Sikkim an international tourist destination alongwith the State Government of Sikkim;

(b) if so, the assistance given by the Central Government to Sikkim in developing tourism;

(c) the proposals received from the State Government of Sikkim regarding development of tourism and the status of each proposal including those of infrastructure development required for tourism; and

(d) the time that would be taken to clear all these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under following schemes:

1. Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits
2. Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects
3. Information Technology
4. Fairs/Festival and Events

The details of project proposals received from the Government of Sikkim during the current financial Year 2009-10 are given in the Statement (*See* below). Proposals which are complete in all respect as per guidelines are processed on *inter-se* priority basis and funds are released subject to availability under the respective head of accounts.

Ministry of tourism has sanctioned Central Financial Assistance amounting to Rs. 5590.67 lakhs during the year 2007-08 & Rs. 6678.05 lakhs during the year 2008-09 to the Government of Sikkim for various Tourism projects.

Statement

Project proposals received from the Government of Sikkim in the current financial year

Sl.No.	Projects Proposals
1.	Development and Promotion of Eco-Tourism at Lachung-Barsey in Sikkim
2.	Tourist circuit development *En-Route* Rumtek in East Sikkim.
3.	Tourist Arrival facilities at various tourist spots in West Sikkim.
4.	Tourist spot development at Kumrek including Trek route development from Gadi to Jhandidara *via* Dikling in East Sikkim
5.	Development of Eco-Park and tourist walkways from Tashi view point to Ganesh-Tok in East Sikkim
6.	Development of tourist infrastructure at Melli in South Sikkim
7.	Tourism Promotion in Sikkim
8.	Development of Tourist Infrastructure at Negidara at Namthang in South Sikkim.
9.	Development of Tourist Infrastructure at Yangyang in South Sikkim.
10.	Development of Parking places at Khangchendzonga waterfall, Phamrong waterfall, Rimbi waterfall including allied tourism facilities in West Sikkim.
11.	Development of Fossil Park in South Sikkim.
12.	Development of River Trek and allied Tourism activities from Melli to Jorethang in South Sikkim
13.	Celebration of Gangtok Winter Tourism Festival, 2009
14.	Celebration of Namchi Mahotsav, 2009
15.	Celebration of Khanchendzonga Tourism Festival, 2009
16.	Celebration of Mangan Music Festival, 2009
17.	Celebration of Jorethang Maghey Sankranti Festival, South Sikkim
18.	Celebration of Aritar Tourism Festival, East Sikkim

Funds for Tourism Infrastructure

678. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is supporting and funding various State Governments to develop infrastructure for tourism especially Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Assam, West Bengal, Goa, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, where there are alternative tourism spots; and

(b) if so, the details of funds released to these above States in last five years, and percentage of utilization?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Projects for development and promotion of tourism are primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance to States/Union Territories on the basis of project proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority. State-wise/Union Territory-wise details of projects sanctioned by the Ministry during the last five years are given in the Statement.